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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

# Statewide Interoperable Communications System — RUTF

## Purpose and History

Interoperability of communications addresses the need for prompt communication between law enforcement and first responders during natural disasters or responses to criminal activity. A statewide land mobile radio communications platform enables communication to occur between jurisdictions. The Statewide Interoperable Communications System will cost a total of \$39.5 million for infrastructure, towers, and maintenance for any city, county, or State public safety user. This system will support day-to-day operations as well as emergency multiagency, multijurisdiction operations.

## E911 Emergency Communications Fund and Surcharge Fund

The E911 Program was created under the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) during the 1988 Legislative Session. The law required each county to establish a joint E911 service board maintained by the county board of supervisors. Each board was responsible for developing a countywide E911 plan detailing the manner and cost for the implementation of an E911 system. The HSEMD reviewed and approved the E911 service plans for all 99 counties. Service plans include a description of the service area, a list of all public and private safety agencies (such as a private ambulance service) within the E911 service area, the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) within the service area, and the agency responsible for management and supervision of the E911 communication system. Funding for the service is provided by a surcharge on each telephone access line within the E911 service area. Telephone service providers remit the surcharge from the respective joint E911 service board to the State on a calendar quarterly basis. The E911 Program Manager deposits the revenue in the E911 Emergency Communications Fund. At the end of each calendar quarter, funds that have not been expended are deposited in the E911 Surcharge Carryover Fund.

## Surcharge Revenue

Surcharge revenue is used for recurring and nonrecurring costs of the system. Nonrecurring costs include but are not limited to network equipment for the PSAPs, software, database maintenance, training, and other capital expenditures, including the purchase or lease of subscriber information from the local exchange service provider. Recurring costs include but are not limited to network access fees and other telephone charges, software, equipment, database management, and maintenance, including the purchase or lease of subscriber information from the local exchange service provider.

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## More Information

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board: [www.isicsb.iowa.gov](http://www.isicsb.iowa.gov)  
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**Funding**

The first payment of \$4.0 million in FY 2016 was appropriated from the E911 Surcharge Fund to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to pay for the lease costs associated with the statewide land mobile radio communications system, which interfaces with the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System radio platform. The second payment of approximately \$4.4 million was allocated to the DPS in FY 2017. This system is under the joint purview of the DPS and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

In FY 2018, \$4.1 million was appropriated from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) for the lease payment. In estimated FY 2019, \$497,000 is appropriated from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF). The system is receiving funding from the Primary Road Fund (PRF) and the RIIF for a total appropriation of \$4.9 million.

**Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapter [34A](#)

2016 Iowa Acts, ch. [1103](#)

2015 Iowa Acts, ch. [129](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [605—10](#)

**Budget Unit Number**

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